

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SHADE TREE COMMISSION – TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 5, 2023**

**OAKHURST, NEW JERSEY**

The Regular Meeting was a virtual meeting held on GoTo Meeting beginning at approximately 7:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Chairperson: Norman Colten  
Member(s): Moshe Gordon, Jack Kearns, joined after roll called  
Alternate I: Ken Lutz  
Alternate II: James Veach  
Liaison: Councilperson Margie Donlon, joined after roll called  
Associate(s):  
Others:  
Public:  
**Absent:** Member(s): Stephen Gaudette, Patty Cronheim  
Associate(s): Marc Rogoff, Carolyn Gulick, Laurel Von Gerichten

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW:**

Chairman Colten announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meeting Law for this meeting have been satisfied; a copy of the Annual Notice was sent to the Asbury Park Press, The Coaster, and News 12 New Jersey and posted in Town Hall and filed in the Office of the Township Clerk on June 30, 2022.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Motion to approve November's meeting minutes as amended was moved by Member Kearns; seconded by Alternate Lutz. All were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BUDGET:**

No update.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

### **1.) TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS & PERMITS:**

Chairperson Colten mentioned a problem arose from a permit issued. Kevin Thompson, Tree Enforcement Officer, issued a permit for the removal of three trees to a resident. The resident then allegedly changed the number of trees allotted to eleven trees. There are legal ramifications for changing an official document. There have been summonses issued and ongoing.

### **2.) NJUCF STEWARDSHIP GRANT:**

Norman and Kevin had a meeting with a potential tree expert and discussed how long it would take to do the work once they started. Once all bids are in, and choose a company, the work should progress in a timely fashion. The RFP is being worked on and will hopefully be completed soon. Once this is done and the Grant is closed out, and a new Grant for planting can be applied for.

### **3.) HAZARDOUS TREE EVALUATIONS AND PROCESS:**

Norm would like to do a hazardous street tree drive by to get a rough estimate of trees that can be evaluated.

### **4.) STREET TREE CONSIDERATIONS:**

Norm would like to come up with places to plant trees, even though it's a part of the grant process. There needs to be a process to plant trees, with permission, on private property, close enough to the sidewalk to be considered street trees. Ken suggested looking into other municipalities that have easements, so trees can be planted on other side of the sidewalks on private property through an easement.

### **5.) TREE ORDINANCE:**

Chairperson Colten suggested the ST needs to be more involved in the tree ordinance. Norm also suggests addressing some issue of whose responsible for the ROW trees in the ordinance. Norm and Kevin had a meeting with Dave Brown, Township Manager, regarding this. The Manager suggested Norm write up a proposal, which was done and sent out to commissioners. Member Cronheim suggested a modification of an ordinance. Two basic parts of the ordinance that pertain to the ST commission; first, the Tree Preservation section relating to maintaining and cutting down trees. Second, the ST Commission's jurisdiction on having the ability to plant trees on private property. Norm asks all to review Member Cronheim's modifications and make any suggested changes before next meeting. Norm would also like to discuss this at a Council Meeting.

Councilperson Donlon will put this on the Council Workshop meeting agenda to discuss

**6.) COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PROGRAMS:**

No update.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**CONCERNS:**

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

James Veach suggested all members on the ST Commission publish their personal information on the town's website, in order for residents to contact them. Norm along with the others present, advised Jim that they do not agree with this. Norm informed Jim that an email to contact the ST/EC appears on the Township's web page, and residents can utilize that.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made to adjourn by Member Kearns; seconded by Alternate II Veach. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Oates, Secretary